

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hartmut Pettendorf, et al.

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Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows prior to the substantive examination thereof:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 8 of this paper.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 9 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.